

WILLIAM PACKWOOD.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 366.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

Mr. C. C. WASHBURN, from the Committee on Private Land Claims,
made the following

REPORT.

Mr. C. C. Washburn, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of the legislature of the Territory of Washington in regard to the claim of William Packwood, report:

That the facts in this case are fully set forth in the memorial of said territorial legislature, which is as follows:

Memorial for the relief of William Packwood, a citizen of Thurston county, Washington Territory.

The memorial of the legislative assembly of the Territory of Washington respectfully represents: That William Packwood emigrated to and settled within the Territory (then Oregon) in the year 1847, at which time the country had not been organized into a Territory, and the provisional government of Oregon extended over and included the present Territory of Washington; that under and by virtue of the then existing law he settled upon, occupied, and improved a land claim upon Nisqually river, containing a section or six hundred and forty acres of land; that he lived upon said land for about the period of two years, making improvements and raising stock and produce thereupon, when said Packwood left for California temporarily with a view to raise the means with which to improve said claim, leaving thereupon his stock and improvements to the value of several hundred dollars, and in the charge of an agent appointed by him to hold such claim and safely keep the property thereupon; that at that time, under the existing law, said Packwood had a right to do so; that in the spring of 1850 he started from his temporary abode in California to reside upon said land claim; that while on his route hither, the severe illness of his wife stopped his progress and prevented his arrival until after the 10th day of December, 1850, and precluded him, under the donation law, from holding more than half a section of land in his own right and that of his wife; that the

said Packwood never abandoned his claim of six hundred and forty acres which he held in 1847; that he never made California his residence or permanent abode; that the illness of his wife alone prevented his being in the Territory within the time of limitation mentioned in the donation law; that the presence of his property and the possession by his agent continuously held said claim from its first occupation in 1847.

Your memorialists, therefore, pray your honorable body to pass an act granting unto William Packwood the right to hold a half section of land, in addition to the half section he now holds, upon any of the public lands of Washington Territory now unoccupied and without interfering with the claims or rights of any other persons.

Passed January 28, 1856.

A. A. DENNY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
SETH CATLIN,
President of the Council.

Your committee find the facts as set forth in said memorial, and report a bill for his relief.